Concerns raised by many over ‘violent’ political rhetoric

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Less than 24 hours before she was shot by a gunman in Tucson, Arizona, Representative Gabrielle Giffords, a Democrat, wrote an email to Kentucky Republican Secretary of State Trey Grayson conveying her longings for ways to “tone our rhetoric and partisan-sanship down.”

Nearly a month since the Jan. 8 shootings, which left 14 people wounded and six dead, the violent rhetoric that worried Giffords just hours before her near-death experience became a national concern in the political arena.

Suggestions that aggressive rhetoric provoked the 22-year-old shooter, Jared Loughner, to act out a generated debate over its use by news media outlets, politicians, and political activists.

The most specific and publicized instance involved a graphic posted by former Vice Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin, on her website placing Palin, on her website placing Republicans also need to learn how to integrate and become part of their host countries and become active citizens.

Some attendees felt the lecture was a necessary view of the past and current European immigrant implications.

It was a great overview of the European situation,” said Simona Merati, a Ph.D. candidate in international relations and FIU’s program coordinator for Middle East Studies.

AForum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

IN YOUR VASE

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

Stress, etiquette and competition were some of the topics covered at a professionalism lecture on Thursday, February 3, at the College of Law.

The event, titled “Managing Personal & Professional Crisis,” and speakers included Michael Cohen, executive director of Florida Lawyers Assistance, and Dr. Cheryl S. Novell, director of the Counseling and Psychological Services Center.

Florida Lawyers Assistance was created by the Florida Supreme Court to help attorneys impaired because of drugs, alcohol or psychological conditions. Rather than taking these problems as being “moral issues,” the organization’s stance is that they are to be acknowledged as treatable illnesses.

A main issue addressed in the lecture was the stress suffered by numerous law students and practicing lawyers.

“Studies show that students are already stressed before they get

Lecture emphasizes stress release

JONATHAN SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

Drawing on her expertise and experience as an Iranian living in the West, Dr. Shireen Hunter, distinguished scholar of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, gave a lecture on the issues of integration and identity affecting the Muslim immigrant populations in Europe.

Titled, “Islam in Europe: Politics of Identity and Security,” students and faculty alike gathered to listen and discuss the crucial importance and oil supply are a cause for worry for most nations.

“The problem is beyond regime,” she said. “Whatever Iran does, everybody else feels uncomfortable.” “I don’t believe that the threat of war with Iran has gone down.”

“Once critical to us is the Egypt-Israel peace treaty, I have high confidence that any government that is likely to take over in Egypt will preserve that treaty, as it’s in Egypt’s fundamental self-interest,” said Robert Hunter.

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Rats! Good for protein in Uganda

A man who ate a rat in front of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in 2005 is threatening to repeat what he says is a traditional form of protest used to bring change.

John Ojim Omoding, 79, told the Daily Monitor newspaper that his grandfather ate a live rat in front of British colonizers in 1947, persuading them to make the eastern Tororo area a county.

Now Omoding wants Tororo promoted to district status and says he may eat more rats in front of Museveni to achieve this goal.

Marathon Man Ends Streak of 365 in 365 Days

The very thought of running a single marathon is enough to cause most people to break out in a nervous sweat.

Unless you’re Stefaan Engels. This weekend the Belgian runner set a world record by completing 365 marathon races in a row. The Belgian athlete – accurately described as “Marathon Man” – ended his fitness feat in Barcelona, Spain, on Saturday, after pounding roads across Europe and the U.S.

Engels has covered 9,569 miles on foot since setting off from his hometown of Ghent on Feb. 5, 2010.

POLITICS, page 1

Luis Valdez, former vice president of College Republicans at the University, is saddened by the dispute sparked by both political parties.

“I don’t think political rhetoric has anything to do with this. People are already making accusations that it’s the right’s fault or the left’s fault. I think it’s a sad case of opportunism for people to point the finger at people they don’t like,” said Valdez.

After several people who knew Loughner, described him as “mentally ill” and “disconnected from reality,” the rhetoric sprouted from both sides on the lack mental health support, and how this fact affected him, and potentially others, to end innwrong.

Tucson Forensic Psychologist Dr. Gary Perrin, a professional accustomed with violent crime, was asked the extent to which a mentally disturbed person could interpret violent, political rhetoric.

Perrin replied, “In these recent days, and I mean the past few years, rhetoric has increased. Words are powerful, and certainly words can make [a mentally unstable] person act in a certain way.”

Although violent acts, according to Perrin, are situational, the lack of consideration from political to tone down their rhetoric generates heated debate.

“For politicians and others to make public statements alluding to violence as a solution to the problems that all this country is unwise and irresponsible,” said Cigales. “Any intelligent person should know that these actions have at least the potential to incite hatred and violence. We already have such a lot of it.”

Disagreeing with the sentiments that the rhetoric led to this violent act, Valdez, said, “Politically heated debate is healthy for democracy. You need people who are willing to say what they believe.”

Among the University community, some feel that the shooting could have been prevented if someone would have just reported Loughner’s disturbing behavior.

“This could have been caught and should have been reported the appropriate way. It hoggles my mind that no one spoke to the authorities,” said College Democrats Vice-President Donovan Dawson.

Visiting patients in a state mental hospital every week for two years for an undergraduate service project, Breslin understands that the mentally ill need support to ensure that their isolation is not too great.

“As the majority of mental hospitals have shut down, it has left patients vulnerable and angry,” said Breslin.

“In hard times, when the stresses on the mentally ill become greater, support for them becomes even weaker.”

Politics, page 8

require the University to raise $70 million, according to Moll.

The SEAS building would include more interdisciplinary studies, according to Moll. An example would be a class on Anthropology and Environmental studies relating.

Also, a larger variety of courses offered at BBC would help students living near the area these goals, Moll said, “Every day, in every way, we are working to make the Biscayne Bay Campus a better place to learn and grow.”

Moll hopes to increase BBC activities

In Vol. 22, Issue 11 of The Beacon, in the story titled “Cristobal announces new defensive coordinator,” the writer’s name is misspelled. The correct spelling is Igor Mello.

Also, in the same issue, the photographer’s name for the Men’s Basketball photo on page 3 is misspelled. The correct spelling is Rebecca Villafane.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Moll seeks negative real in interactions among lawyers

Cohen sees negative real in interactions among lawyers
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Late lead blown in final seconds

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

FIU led nearly the entire game until FAU's Brett Royster scored a layup with 4.2 seconds left in the game, ruining any chances of a Golden Panther upset. FIU fell to rival FAU in a 73-72 heartbreaking loss on the road in Boca Raton on Feb. 5.

"With four seconds to go, having played the game we just played, it never should have gotten to that," coach Isaiah Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers came out in the first half firing away from beyond the arc, and after three from Phil Gary, Jeremy Allen and Dominiqque Ferguson they found themselves quickly up on the Owls 9-0 just three minutes into the game.

"We work at shooting the basketball every day and we try to make sure our players take shots that they're comfortable with," Thomas said. "During the start of the game they had comfortable looks and they knocked them down."

In the first half, 24 of FIU's 35 points came from beyond the arc, but what was even more impressive was their effort on the defensive end of the ball.

They limited FAU to just 29 points on 45 percent shooting from the field and forced nine turnovers, leading to 15 points off of turnovers. The guard combination of Phil Taylor, who played 33 minutes, and Gary counteracted the tremendous guards the Owls have in Alex Tucker and Raymond Taylor.

Although FIU (9-14, 4-7 SBC) could never push their lead higher than 11, to their credit they never let the lead slip away from them either. Taylor took control of the game in the last five minutes of the half, scoring nine straight to keep the lead. When it looked like FAU was getting ready to take the lead at 28-27 with 3:38 remaining, the freshman hit a long range three and got fouled on the next three he took which he made one of his free throws to put them up 32-27. The half ended with FIU leading 35-29.

In the second half, FIU maintained a 8 to 12 point lead over FAU (18-7, 10-1 SBC) for a majority of the time, despite Ferguson getting his fourth foul with 16:43 to play.

After taking 12 three-pointers in the first half, they only managed to take two in the second half as FAU tightened up on defense, making sure FIU did not have any opportunities. The lack of scoring from deep and poor defense halfway through was the cause of seeing their 12 point lead at 9:36 fall to just one at 5:59 remaining.

The outcome would boil down to the last minute of play, when the Golden Panthers once again could not find a way to finish what they started.

The Golden Panthers had a seven-point lead with 1:10 remaining but FAU had them right where they wanted them.

MEN'S, page 4

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU fans have a lot to learn from FAU

L was "Bury the Burrow in red" at the Oxley Center, one of FAU's many promotional nights as a sea of 2,964 fans dressed in red tailgated and attended the rivalry game against FIU.

It always ceases to amaze that the school an hour north from here can draw more fans for a big rivalry game than FIU.

Florida Atlantic, a far superior team to the Golden Panthers (and many other Sun Belt teams) on the court this season, stole a game that they had no business winning on Feb. 5. In a game where FIU led for 39 minutes and 55 seconds, a game-winning layup by FAU's Brett Royster destroyed any chances of an upset.

After the buzzer sounded, the sold-out arena rushed the court, ringing the "Taylor Victory Bell," another new tradition by the rival school. The Owls may not have deserved to win the game, but their fans certainly deserved a chance to celebrate a big win. Unlike FIU, the school in Boca has their share of faithful fans, whether it's for football or basketball.

That's just not the kind of school spirit you find here in Miami.

FANS, page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers extend streak with win over Owls

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

For the Golden Panthers to continue on their current winning streak, they would have to jump over a significant hurdle: A cross-town rival.

FIU overcame the hurdle, as they went into Boca Raton, winning 60-53 against FAU on Feb. 6. Jerica Coley recorded her fifth consecutive game double-digit game, as she led all scorers with 18 points while adding four rebounds, four assists, and four steals. Finda Mansare joined Coley offensively with 14 points and seven assists, and four steals. Finda Mansare joined Coley offensively with 14 points and seven assists. Senior Michelle Gonzalez also added 11 points to help FIU (11-14, SBC 6-5) secure their fourth consecutive victory.

One of the keys to victory for the Golden Panthers was their free-thrown shooting, as Cindy Russo's squad were a perfect 11-of-11 from the free-thrown line. Along with the free-thrown shooting, FIU was able to force FAU (6-16, SBC 3-8) to commit 20 turnovers, which the Golden Panthers took advantage of by scoring 23 points off of the turnovers.

The Golden Panthers jumped out to a 10-3 lead in the first three minutes. The Owls fought back to make it a three-point game, as the Golden Panthers hung on to a 10-7 lead. FIU would again push the pace the game by going on an 8-2 run, capped by Coley's three-point play with 10:51 remaining to make it 18-9.

The Golden Panthers held a 16-point lead with 6:23 remaining in the half after Mansare hit a jumper. Gonzalez finished the half with free throws to give FIU a 33-23 lead at halftime. Rival FAU stormed back by opening the half with an 8-0 run, led by a pair of three-point shots from Takia Brooks and April Goins to cut the deficit to 33-31 with 17:25. The Owls took their first and only lead of the game at 13:55, but it was short lived as Mansare gave the FIU the lead once again to spark FIU on a 10.0 run.

The Owls cut the lead to 53-49 with 3:13 to go, but Coley finished off the Owls' comeback when she hit from downtown to ice the game and secure a 60-53 win.

The Panthers will look to extend their winning streak as they host the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (10-13, SBC 3-7) on Wed, Feb 9. The Ragin' Cajuns are currently in fifth place in the West division of the SBC, averaging 0.825. They have won six of their last nine games, including a 74-67 win over Louisiana State University on Jan. 26.
Golden Panthers have dropped seven of last eight

**MEN’S, page 3**

The FIU defense could not hold up as the Owls nailed two consecutive three-pointers to stay alive and with 39 seconds left, FIU had the ball with a three-point lead. The Owls opted not to foul but rather let FIU run out the shot clock. Taylor missed a three-pointer with the shot clock winding down as Deluan Wright saw the rebound bobble out of his hands go right to Raymond Taylor of FAU, who was immediately fouled by Gary.

Taylor would make both free throws and with 14 seconds left to cut the lead back to one with FIU ready to inbound. Before FIU could inbound the ball, the Owls decided to foul Gary and send him to the line for two.

Gary, a 66 percent shooter from the charity stripe, missed both free throws. Off the second miss, FAU’s Alex Tucker took the ball the length of the court and found Brett Royster for an easy layup giving them Owls their only lead of the game. FIU’s last chance – a Deluan Wright full court heave – was not to be, as the Golden Panthers once again let a game that they could have won get away from them.

Free throws hurt them the most as they shot 11 out of 18 in the game. Even though after the game Royster was quoted saying it was the loudest the arena has been all year, Thomas did not make that an excuse for the poor performance.

“I'd like to tell you that it played a big role, but we’ve been in places where the crowd wasn’t as noisy and we missed them then,” Thomas said.

“I’m sure that it’s going to be a very difficult loss for FIU and Isiah [Thomas] because they had this game and outplayed us for 39 minutes,” FAU coach Mike Jarvis said. “I give them a lot of credit for the way they tried to win this game.”

**Ragin’ Cajuns next foe for Golden Panthers**

The Golden Panthers will tip-off against the Ragin’ Cajuns at 6 p.m. at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

**WOMEN’S B-BALL**

**FIU vs. Louisiana**

- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- Where: 02/09/11
- Where: USCBA

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LIFE!

AND THE CROWN GOES TO...

Top left: The 2010 Miss FIU winner Stephanie Jimenez, 2011 winner Ana Perez, Homecoming Queen Cecily Arias and Jasmy Garbalosa, Public Relations Chair for Miss FIU, pose after the pageant. Bottom left: Brianna Ortiz, the winner of Best Interview, performs during the talent portion of the pageant. Right: Mr. FIU winner, Robby Valls and the 2010 Miss FIU winner Stephanie Jimenez present contestants during the show. Photos by Laura Pacchioni.

IN STITCHES

Art student gets style inspiration from film and nature

Jennifer Suarez is a recent transfer to the University from New York City and she brought her ukulele and eclectic fashion sense with her from the Big Apple.

THE BEACON: WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN FASHION?

Jennifer Suarez: I’ve always kind of had a bit of a creative background. I went to a fashion high school kind of. I went to DASH, the Design and Architecture Senior High in the Design District. I was a film major but most of my best friends were in fashion and we would go to stores and thrift stores and I just always picked that up. It’s a good creative outlet and I always had a knack for it. Also, my parents dress up and have infinite amounts of shoes so my whole family is like that.

THE BEACON: WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO GO SHOPPING IN MIAMI?

Jennifer Suarez: I always pick things up from different places like American Apparel and Urban Outfitters and an assortment of thrift stores like Douglas Gardens, which is like my second home. I got this [handbag] there for five dollars.

THE BEACON: HOW DOES MIAMI INFLUENCE YOUR FASHION SENSE?

Jennifer Suarez: In New York, I tried to dress anti-weather so I dress colorful enough here because you can find it more often in stores. I also play [music] shows, which is an opportunity to dress nicely.

THE BEACON: WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION?

Jennifer Suarez: Birds, friends, movies and magazines. As far as fashion, I really like Wes Anderson films like The Royal Tenenbaums where you always find an eclectic collection of colors. I really like old French films. Actually no, old Italian films have really good fashion too.

THE BEACON: CAN YOU LIVE WITHOUT FASHION?

Jennifer Suarez: I feel like I can say I can live without fashion, but I always find myself destroying my closet and trying on a million things. I’m a creature of habit. [Even when there is no one there], you always try to dress to impress in a certain sense.

In Stitches is a bi-weekly column on campus fashion. Look for it every other Wednesday.

FASHION STATS

Who is she?

- Name: Jennifer Suarez
- Major: Art
- Year: Junior

What’s she wearing?

- Turban: Vintage
- Tunic: Vintage
- Boots: Urban Outfitters

COLUMNIST

ESRA ERDOGAN

AND THE CROWN GOES TO...

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Indie artist to perform in GC Ballrooms

SPC presents: Jared Mahone Live at FIU

• Time: 6:00 p.m.
• When: 02/09/11
• Where: GC Ballrooms

Jared Mahone has been compared to pop artist Jack Johnson by critics. He is best known for his beatboxing skills.

Mahone’s style brings performing to the next level by using a combination of sounds and rhythms. Jared Mahone was picked through The National Association for Campus Activities, NACA. SPC and Campus Life are behind the booking of Mahone. To them, his talents stood out and landed him a spot at Florida International University as part of his 86 college national tour. Mahone is using the tour to test out his new music and encourages fans to give feedback through his website, JaredMahone.com.

Mahone’s music can be found on iTunes. His first and only album is, That Cityscape. Songs that can be heard on this album include, “Catch My Breath,” “Eventually” and “Fast Asleep.” It was released in 2007.

Apart from his album release, Mahone was previously undertaking a “Mixtape Project” in 2010. The challenge was to write one song every week for a year. Mahone would then post the songs each week on his website. Mahone says he saw the project as a way to include his fans in his love of writing. From this, fans can choose the top songs to be included in his next album.

While he did not meet the goal, the project became an ongoing process and he will continue until the 52-song quota is met. Fans can check out the songs he has written so far and still vote on their favorites on his website. SPC has designed the concert to be like a “dinner and show” to differentiate it from their other concert events. This dinner and show is aimed to entertain and provide students with an opportunity to wipe their minds clear with music. Food and drinks are free, and everyone is welcome.

Everyone is sure to have a great time. Free food will be served, including lasagna,” said Suarez.

Food for Thought

Gables Diner serves up a homemade-quality weekly brunch menu

I have a confession to make: I am one of those crazies that will gladly eat breakfast for dinner. It’s something about the overall comforting, at-home feeling that breakfast seems to give me that will make me choose eggs and grits over conventional lunch or dinner food any day.

With this being said, it can be assumed that I am always on the lookout for a brunch opportunity, an excuse to eat pancakes for lunch.

Thankfully, an out-of-town guest (and fellow breakfast enthusiast), who will we call Mr. Harris, discovered a local spot and decided to share it with me.

On the way to our destination, Mr. Harris raved about Gables Diner, 2320 Galiano St, a South Florida staple that serves brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Since Mr. Harris was the guest of honor, he insisted that we take full advantage of it during Superbowl weekend, and I was more than happy to oblige. Upon arriving, I was pleasantly surprised to see that the restaurant is small but cozy, with a warm eclectic take on the usual diner set-up with plenty of window seat booths.

On Saturday, I decided to try their take on the classic, all-American breakfast, namely the Stacked Eggs which included two fried eggs, sausage patty, kielbasa slice, French toast and a surprise side of home fries.

When my food arrived, I was happy to see the generous portion and, upon digging in, very pleased to see that the quality of the food matched up with the quantity.

Oftentimes when I order French toast, I have found it to be a little dry, and the outer crust gave way to a creamy middle with the flavors of cheddar melding with a very mild sweetness that reflected the corn-based Southern favorite.

I highly doubt I will ever eat grits any other way from now on. As wonderful as the food was, the wait staff at Gables Diner, while prompt, could use a refresher course in customer service. In both instances, the servers didn’t even tell us their names and had a gruff demeanor.

Furthermore, they had a tendency to disappear, making it difficult to call them if something was amiss.

Saying that Mr. Harris cleaned his plate on both days isn’t enough to tell you how good brunch was. The brunch at Gables Diner was so good that my mother, who is not a big fan of breakfast food, is now a convert. Hopefully, upon trying it, you too can join the brunch movement.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.

Reviewers are not compensated or rewarded for favorable reviews.
Block scheduling lacks flexibility

KELLY MALAMIRI
Contributing Writer

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, most commuting students travel down 22nd and 26th St. to the University on time. After one class is released, the next may not begin for another 2 or 3 hours. Students’ drive home during rush hour may then result in more time spent outside of the classroom than in it on an average day.

On Jan. 31, 2011, The Beacon published an article describing students’ and professors’ disappointment with the University’s change from a Monday through Thursday block schedule to a Monday through Friday block schedule, which was implemented 4 years ago. Although a change to the schedule was necessary, the short classes that the new block schedule offers affect the community in a negative manner. The block schedule was put in place to promote efficient classroom use, yet has caused students and professors to inefficiently manage time, and should be revised.

The variety of classes offered before and after the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. block schedule time frame should be extended in order to assist in the creation of well-rounded students, which should be one of the main goals of any university. In a study conducted by Florida’s Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability regarding or in response to its students and professors’ disappointment with the University’s change from a Monday through Thursday block schedule to a Monday through Friday block schedule, which was implemented 4 years ago. Although a change to the schedule was necessary, the short classes that the new block schedule offers affect the University’s community.

In such an urban university setting in which many students work before and after school and commute too and from school, flexible class options must be made available. In the 50-minute block schedule, students are not the only ones limited. Daily routines like taking attendance, boot up equipment and opening PowerPoint presentations take a significant amount of time out of the short 50-minute class, and limit the time professors have to teach. If time is money, then the University as well as students paying by the credit hour simply cannot afford to encounter such delays three times a week at the beginning of every brief class. While it is true that students may enroll in online classes, the University charges an extra $199 to take them. Such high fees are not affordable by many students who receive financial aid or pay out-of-pocket for school, eliminating this option for many. Because online courses, meant to accommodate those with full schedules, come with such hefty fees and are, therefore, unavailable to many students, it’s only equitable that more flexible options, like many various classes offered beyond the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. workday, be available to students on campus.

In such an urban university setting in which many students work before and after school and commute too and from school, flexible class options must be made available. The block schedule the University has adopted has proved to be uncompromising. It should be made clear that prayer has positive psychological, physical and emotional influences. Focusing on your emotions by praying can help relieve stress, calm fears and reduce anxiety. When cardiologist Randolph Byrd, did his famous study on the effects of prayer in April 1982 through May 1983, he found that praying on a regular basis, could have a positive effect on the psyche of an individual by stabilizing their mood, giving them a feeling of well-being, improving how they interact with others and helping them conduct themselves. When it comes to children and how they behave in school, prayer and, as some people believe, it holds can have enormous constructive effects on their outlook and those around them.

The establishment clause is a popular rebuttal for those who are against prayer in schools. It is the first of several pronounce-
ments in the Constitution and it states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. If this is the case there should be no argument for the constitutionality of the voluntary prayer in schools. In fact, the Establishment Clause has been in a physical fight on school grounds at least once. The Department of Education has found that 5.3 percent of students do not go to school because they do not feel safe.

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Steven Moll discusses his plans for the campus

MOLL, page 2

NADRA MASROUK
Staff Writer

Although student is still a role
Steven Moll plays while at the Univer-
sity, the position he was recently appointed to him to set in
motion plans to improve the Biscayne Bay
Campus and the University as a whole.

“I am FIU. I came here when FIU
was two years old as a student. I’ve
gotten my Bachelor’s, my Masters
and [I’m] working on my PhD. I’ve
taught here for 34 years,” said Moll,
who was appointed to be BBC’s vice
provost on Jan. 4. “If there’s anything
I can do to make this University a better
place for students to learn, then
I am more than happy to work as hard
as I can to make it happen.”

Moll would like to enhance the
campus and its services through
his 2010-2011 performance goals strengthen,
his belief that there is
an opportunity for constant improve-
ment in every aspect of the campus.

He has organized his top goals in an
outline he composed each with
“metrics” in order to measure the
gains in terms of the goals and in how they
link to “Hit The Ground Running,” a statement
University President Mark Rosenberg
designed before becoming president
in August 2009.

They include goals Rosenberg
hope to accomplish for the Univer-
sity. Rosenberg’s goals include a
desire to have a strong financial
base, become more concerned about
the environment on campus and engage
the community with the College of
Medicine.

Moll is also considering an improvement in
customer service on BBC. Service
covered people who interact with the students
including workers in the Financial Aid
office and cashiers. His plan will
be to offer more customer service
training and professional develop-
ment provided for the faculty and the
staff across the campus.

A BBC customer service survey
will be used to analyze the results in
order to further enhance improve-
ment. These surveys will ask ques-
tions based on what kind of services
students received, as they will be
allowed to rate the service ranging
from poor to excellent. It would ask
about services provided in Financial
Aid, the Library, including services
provided in each major.

There is room for continual
improvement in all areas all the
time for constant growth,” Moll said.

Another goal is to increase the
private contributions made to BBC
and to search for more outside sources of
funding.

“The support we receive from the
state of Florida continues to go down,
60 percent of what it cost to operate
a University used to be provided to us,”
Moll said. “Today it is less than
40 percent. We must get funding privately,
otherwise we won’t have any.”

Increasing grant activity would
increase the amount of funding, as
Moll said.

Another goal to help funding
involves increasing the number of
Circle of Friends members and private
donations made. In 2009, the Circle of
Friends was designed to expand FIU’s
involvement in philanthropy.

Moll said that the Circle of
Friends is used to fund events
improve the quality of life on BBC.

To a series of events organized by the
university, the Circle of Friends
donations made. In 2009, the Circle of
Friends members and private
donations made.

Moll plans to work with the
Alumni Foundation, community
leaders and anyone else willing to
benefit the University.

Another priority is to better
promote the Quality Enhancement
Plan at BBC. QEP is a strategy
designed by the University to improve
the quality of higher education and
enhance student learning.

Moll would like to increase the
amount of Global Learning courses
offered. This would create a larger
variety of courses for the students
to choose from and take a greater
interest in and for the students to find
more GL courses that relate to their
individual majors. There would also
be an increase in the number of events
promoting the concept of Global
Learning.

A student with an associate in
arts from Miami-Dade College transfer-
ing to FIU is still required to take
two Global Learning courses in their
major.

Increasing the number of
GL courses offered on campus, promotes
QEP according to Moll.

Moll would also like to eventu-
ally place another building on BBC
for the School of Environment, Arts
and Society. Because the building
would have a Leadership in Energy
and Environmental Design certifi ca-
tion, its ecological footprint would be
much smaller. This would make it a
“green” building in the sense of how
much less energy it actually uses. This
building would include classes and
offices and would be a subdivision of
the College of Arts and Sciences.

Building the SEAS building would

Matt Porche
Contributing Writer

The eighth annual Leader-
ship Summit was held on
Feb. 5 at the Biscayne Bay
Campus in the Wolfe University Center.
The annual leadership
conference allowed student
leaders, as well as students who
were interested in becoming
leaders, to network and
learn leadership skills.

Throughout the summit, students
were exposed to the University
held concurrent sessions at different
areas of BBC, where students were given
advices on different life skills such
as becoming effective leaders,
handling stress, and creating
balance in their lives.

“I think this is a great oppor-
tunity for FIU students to be
exposed to a number of leadership
topics, issues and learning points
all in one event,” said Bronwen
Bares, associate director for the
Women’s Center and a member of
the summit’s planning committee.

Bares believes the leadership
summit is a starting point for the
University’s emerging leaders.

“We have some of the top
student leaders here at the summit,
and this makes this a great place
for networking,” Bares said.

The student leaders who
were hosting the sessions during the
summit had to first submit their presentations to the
planning committee for acceptance,
according to Bares.

A student majoring in higher educa-
tion administration, hosted a
session about the new faces of
leadership.

“I think students will be moti-
ivated to continue their educa-
tion and develop skills to become
the next leaders of the future,”
Salazar said.

Beverley Darlymple, who
directs the University’s Center for
Leadership and Services
carries the faculty of the summit’s
leadership.

She explained this event brings
together student leaders from
campus to allow them to build on their skills and
expand their knowledge as well as
understand leadership, faculty, and
alumni to present the workshops.

University President Mark
Rosenberg and several leaders of
the University made appear-
ances at the summit, along with
this year’s keynote speaker, Trish
Downing.

Trish Downing earned her
master’s degree in sports manage-
ment, and was heavily involved in
sports. After a cycling accident
in 2000, she was left paralyzed
from the chest down. Although
she is now in a wheelchair,
Downing continues to compete as
a paraplegic athlete, as she is the
second female wheelchair racer,
and the first female paraplegic,
to complete an Ironman distance
distance. Downing also takes
time to motivate students to be leaders
and achieve their goals.

At the start of summit, Downing
talked to students about over-
coming obstacles in their lives.

“Even when I had no idea
of what was ahead of me, I didn’t
give up,” Downing said as she
spoke about the difficulty she faced
when she first began competing as
a paraplegic. “One of [the] things
I realized is that I have a passion,
and I didn’t have a passion for
what I do. I wouldn’t have made it
where I am today. That passion
you strive for will give you some-
thing to hold on to.”

After speaking to the students
in the theater, Downing later spoke
to students in a session she hosted
in the WUC ballrooms. She talked
about being a leader by finding
balance in life.

Muffy Barbaran, a junior
majoring in women’s studies
and sociology, attended a session
which explained how to make
confidence in one’s self and
marketing, as she is involved in
the Women’s Studies Student Association.

“What I learned from
[Downing] is to never give up,
and to persevere, because you
never know what life has to offer,”
Barbaran said.

“I like how the sessions are
interactive and they ask questions.
Here, I have learned no matter
what background you are from,
you can still be a leader,” Kerwing
Rivas, a sophomore majoring in
business administration, said.